First Congregational United Church of Christ,
Ypsilanti, MI
"Follow Me"

http://www.vanishingculturesphotography.com/p511679189/hD1564E0#hd1564e0

No matter who you are or where you are
on life's journey, you're welcome here.

November 15, 2015 10:00 am

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

An open and affirming community
committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Justin Snyder

***Gathering Hymn** **"God of Change and Glory"** **177 NCH** – Tiffany Waldron

Welcome Kelsie Molter

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Kelsie Molter

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

Anthem **"Just A Closer Walk"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Unison) Kelsie Molter

The Holy Spirit renews in us the covenant that we made with our God. This covenant is planted in our hearts and written in our minds so love and right actions become second nature to us. Let us always encourage one another. In name of Jesus Christ, we say… Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Psalm 27** Kelsie Molter

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **Matthew 5:14-16** Carol Hall

Sermon "Signals" Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"God of the Prophets"** **53 ES**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Our God, who is in us on earth, holy is your name in the hungry who share their bread and their song.

Your Realm come, which is a generous land of milk and honey.

Let us do your will, standing up when all are sitting down, and raising our voice when all are silent.

You are giving us our daily bread in the song of the bird and the miracle of corn.

Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice, and for burying our

dreams, for not sharing bread and cup, love and the land, among us now.

Don't let us fall into the temptation of shutting the door through fear, of resigning ourselves to hunger and injustice, of taking up the same arms as the enemy. But deliver us from evil.

Give us the perseverance and the solidarity to look for love, even if the path has not yet been trodden, even if we fall; so we shall have known your Realm, which is being built for ever and ever. Amen.

– Central American Lord's Prayer, adapted
From Bread for Tomorrow: Prayers for the Church Year

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) Carol Hall

We give as we are blessed, not to win God's favor but to express our thanks. We are thankful that we can provide care and outreach to those who have less. Receive our gifts as we provide them in support of our ministries in your name. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory Justin Snyder

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication** ***(Unison) Kelsie Molter

Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice in this opportunity to share. Here are the fruits of your generosity and our hard work. Show us how to combine our efforts to build wholesome efforts that will extend your Church and minister in Your name throughout our community and the world. In blessing and in being blessed we say… Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"** **403 NCH**

*Benediction

Carol Hall

One: Go forth in confidence that God remembers you.
Go in peace, knowing you will find blessings in abundance.

Many: God is with us wherever we go.
Love and respect for one another will be our motive.

One: Live your lives in a continuing relationship of prayer and light.

Many: Listen for God offers counsel every day.
God is always ready to guide our decisions if we are open.
There is a word for us in every situation.
Amen.

– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Postlude

Justin Snyder

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace

Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.

Open and Affirming Covenant of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.
All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.
We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

~~~~~~

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Nov 15th	Next Sunday: Nov 22nd
Usher	Wayne Burling	Marty Kleino
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Kelsie Molter	Hunter Turner
Worship Set-up	Glenda Horvath	Ann Marie N-T
Acolyte	Hunter Turner	Lyle Molter
Friendship Time	Glenda Horvath	Patty Sherwood
Sunday School	Tad Wysor	Alex Goldsmith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Citrus Fruit Sale 2014-2015: December Shipment Orders are due no later than **December 1st**.
Delivery will be December 10 – 13th
Contact Tad Wysor (734) 483-3761 or Wayne Burling (734) 377-0696 if you have any questions.

- **Navel Oranges (~20 lbs):** **$24/box ($12 for 1/2 box)**
- **Ruby Red Grapefruit (~20 lbs):** **$22/box ($11 for 1/2 box)**
- **Tangerines:** **$28/box ($14 for 1/2 box)**
- **NEW! Variety Pack:** **$28/box ($14 for 1/2 box)**

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

Student Advocacy Center of Michigan.....Benefit Concert: **Concert 4 a Cause** is once again having an event to benefit the community -- this time for the **Student Advocacy Center of Michigan,** which has worked for 40 years to fight school dropout and push out of our most vulnerable students through advocacy, education support, academic mentoring and youth leadership opportunities.
Concert4aCause featuring:
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Bass String Quartet & Piano Shubert Trout Quintet & a Vaughan Williams Quintet
***Friday, November 20th - 8pm Northside Community Church - 929 Barton Drive, Ann* Arbor**
Celebrating the work of **Student Advocacy Center of Michigan**
Free and open to the public. Donations accepted at the door - 100% going to support the work of Student Advocacy Center.
~~~~~~

WeROC's Public Meeting: Our church has a rare opportunity on Sunday afternoon, November 15 to make our presence known in the community -- in a very physical way -- with a nice contingent at WeROC's major Public Meeting at Emmanuel Lutheran across the river (201 N. River St). Our goal is 10 people...can we beat that?

With our spirited First Congregational section participating together with hundreds of our sisters and brothers from faith, labor, community organizations across the Washtenaw area, we magnify our ability to do God's work as a small congregation. And by helping WeROC fill the sanctuary with a broad range of people and organizations who are united around the basic shared value that "we're all in this together," we will directly contribute to achieving a rare thing in today's fragmented world…public officials and decision-makers committing in public to real changes that improve the lives of everyone in our area.

- Reducing school suspensions and breaking the school-to prison pipeline.
- Broadening the number of businesses in our area that offer employees earned sick time for themselves or to care for a family member, instead of losing a paycheck or their job.
- Expanding public transit options, locally and between Washtenaw and Detroit.
- Building on the very real public health consequences of our unacceptable level of incarceration, especially as communities of color have been affected.

Tying all of these issues together -- and the theme of the Public Meeting -- is the need, now more than ever, for all of us to work more powerfully together to dismantle the structures that preserve and expand racial and economic disparities right here in Washtenaw County. Our flyer and more at www.werocmi.org. See or contact Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com) or Marty Kleino (mgkleino@gmail.com) to sign up for our church's contingent, or to ask questions. And help us spread the word -- our numbers mean everything with this kind of action meeting.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

About this week's cover photo:

Drokpa lady and candle
On the cover of the "ElderTreks 2014-2015 Brochure"
© Kieron Nelson 2009 "Vanishing Cultures Photography" All rights reserved

http://www.vanishingculturesphotography.com/p511679189/hD1564E0#hd1564e0